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SECTION I: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a teleconference, said method comprising:

connecting a plurality of participants together in a teleconference;

~~detecting when a first participant of said participants has become disconnected from said teleconference;~~

~~making a recording of teleconference content while said first participant is disconnected from said teleconference;~~

after a first participant of said plurality of participants has become disconnected from said teleconference, detecting when said first participant is reconnected to said teleconference;
and

presenting a reconnect menu on a display device of said first participant after said first participant has been reconnected to said teleconference, said reconnect menu including a plurality of reconnect options available for selection by said first participant, said reconnect options including an immediate rejoin option for enabling said first participant to immediately audibly rejoin said teleconference, said reconnect options further including a replay option for enabling said first participant to replay missed content of said teleconference occurring while said first participant had been disconnected from said teleconference.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including ~~making said recording available to said first participant when said first participant is re-connected to said teleconference enabling one of said plurality of participants other than said first participant to override said reconnect options available to said first participant and immediately re-establish audio communication with said first participant after said first participant has been reconnected to said teleconference.~~

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said teleconference is an audio teleconference.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said first participant is using a cell phone.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said teleconference is a video teleconference.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said participants are connected through a telephone company to a teleconference center, said recording being made by said telephone company.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said participants are connected through a telephone company to a teleconference center, said recording being made by said teleconference center.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including ~~said first participant~~ sending a connection

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signal from said first participant while said first participant is connected to said teleconference, and detecting when said first participant becomes disconnected from said teleconference ~~said detecting being accomplished by detecting a loss of said connection signal.~~

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein said connection signal is a non-audible signal.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including playing pre-recorded messages into said teleconference ~~content~~ upon an occurrence of predetermined events associated with said pre-recorded messages.

11. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein one of said pre-recorded messages announces a disconnection of said first participant when said first participant becomes disconnected from said teleconference.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11 wherein said re-connection message announces a re-connection of said first participant to said teleconference in real time.

13. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11 wherein one of said pre-recorded messages announces a re-connection of said first participant to an incoming line to said teleconference and is currently playing back said recording of content missed while said first participant was disconnected from said teleconference.

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14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13 and further including enabling more than one of said plurality of participants to selectively re-connect said first participant to said real-time teleconference.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including a selective playing of said ~~recording~~ missed content in one or more playback speeds.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 15 and further including displaying indicia representative of progress of playing back said recording relative to total time of said recording.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said teleconference is an audio teleconference and said first participant is using a telephone to connect to said teleconference, said method further including:

saving caller identification and teleconference information in memory within said telephone used by said first participant upon connecting to said teleconference; and

accessing said caller identification and teleconference information from said first participant's telephone in re-connecting said first participant to said teleconference after said first participant has become disconnected from said teleconference.

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18. (Currently Amended) A teleconferencing system comprising:

a teleconference center for processing a plurality of interconnected participants;

~~a telephone company equipment center including a telephone switching system for connecting said participants to said teleconference center;~~

~~detecting means for detecting when a first participant of said participants has become disconnected from said teleconference, and~~

~~recording means for making a recording of teleconference content while said first participant is disconnected from said teleconference~~

after a first participant of said plurality of participants has become disconnected from said teleconference, means for detecting when said first participant is reconnected to said teleconference; and

means for presenting a reconnect menu on a display device of said first participant after said first participant has been reconnected to said teleconference, said reconnect menu including a plurality of reconnect options available for selection by said first participant, said reconnect options including an immediate rejoin option for enabling said first participant to immediately audibly rejoin said teleconference, said reconnect options further including a replay option for enabling said first participant to replay missed content of said

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teleconference occurring while said first participant had been disconnected from said teleconference.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 18 wherein ~~said detecting means and said recording means are said teleconferencing system is located at said teleconference center.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 18 wherein ~~said detecting means and said recording means are said teleconferencing system is located at said a telephone company equipment center.~~